

motivational speaker on issues pertaining to affirmative action, women's issues, diversity awareness, community empowerment and workforce development. In addition, she is very active in the community and is often called upon to be a speaker, advisor, and/or mediator by local schools, colleges, universities, churches, local/Federal government, and civil and professional organizations.

In April 2000, she founded and currently serves as the president/CEO of The Portrait of Empowerment Inc., a not-for-profit community based organization. This organization is dedicated to enabling individuals and families to become self-sufficient, which ultimately will improve the economic development as well as the quality of life in the community-at-large. In May 2001, she graduated from the Interdenominational Theological Center with a certificate of theology in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2002, she was elected as the vice-mayor for the city of Opa-Locka, Florida, and also served as the interim mayor. She also serves as the volunteers' coordinator for the Carrie Meek Foundation, Inc.

This public servant is married to Roy Johnson, has two daughters, Roilanda and Tamika, and two grandchildren, Joshua and Nisiah. Dottie is known in the community as "Lady Justice".

It is an honor to have the privilege of knowing this valued leader of the Miami-Dade County community and beyond. I salute Mrs. Dorothy "Dottie" Johnson on behalf of a grateful community that she truly loves and cares for. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon new challenges in life and I am certain her legacy of greatness will only grow and develop as she enters this new phase of life. I wish her every happiness and success.

HONORING THE CHILDREN OF APPLETIME CHILDCARE CENTER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the children of Appletime Childcare Center of Rogers, Minnesota, and the Trike-a-Thon they sponsored to help fight childhood cancer.

The children of Appletime Childcare Center worked hard to raise community support and resources with their families and friends through a Trike-a-Thon on May 16, 2008. Their efforts will support research at St. Jude's Children's Hospital, the world's largest cancer research center. St. Jude's contributions to pediatric medicine have assisted doctors around the world in treating children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. This event demonstrated a remarkable commitment by these young Minnesotans to help others.

The story of this effort reached me by way of Sharon Wilson, a proud grandmother and constituent of mine from St. Paul whose grandson, Zach Schmitz, was one of the many children who worked so diligently to organize and complete this event. The Trike-a-Thon taught young children the importance of helping others while also introducing valuable concepts of bike riding safety. By combining the fun of riding bicycles and tricycles with charitable giving, the Trike-a-Thon was a wonderful

introduction to philanthropy for these youth, and an outstanding example for the rest of our community.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the children of Appletime Childcare Center and their successful Trike-a-Thon to fight childhood cancer.

HONORING BENJAMIN BRESLOW

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Breslow of Platte City, Missouri. Benjamin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Breslow for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD HODSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Howard R. Hodson, Sr., as the recipient of the 2008 Iowa Legionnaire of the Year Award by the American Legion for his servitude to this country and to the ideals of the American Legion. He was also awarded three other awards by the department commander and one award from the national commander.

The Legionnaire of the Year Award is presented every year to an outstanding member who has served the Legion and their community, state, and nation. Howard is a Vietnam veteran having served in the Army and is a member of the American Legion for forty-three years. In the American Legion, he has served as a post commander, post historian, post membership chairman, 3rd District senior vice commander, and as the membership chairman of the 3rd District.

I congratulate Howard R. Hodson, Sr. on his well-deserved award, and I'm certain that he will continue to serve this great nation and the American Legion. It is a great honor to represent Howard in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best.

RECOGNIZING THE DALLAS CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to make my colleagues aware of an exciting new facility opening in my district. The Dallas Arts District will soon be home to the Dallas Center for Architecture.

Officially opening on October 7, 2008, the DCFA will add another facet to the ever-expanding Arts District in downtown Dallas. The Center will be at 1909 Woodall Rogers Freeway and will face the Woodall Rogers Plaza. In fact, the first exhibit at the DCFA will be about the soon-to-be-constructed plaza.

I am excited about this addition to the already world renowned arts district in my hometown. The DCFA is designed for those interested in learning more about the art and science of architecture and will feature a wide variety of exhibits on topics such as environmentally sustainable design, historic preservation, adaptive reuse of buildings, urban planning, and a personal interest of mine—brownfield redevelopment.

The DCFA, in addition to the exhibits for the public, will be a place of continuing education for the architecture community and the home of the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

I know this project is the culmination of the work of many people. Specifically I would like to acknowledge Tip Housewright, of the AIA, for being the commissioner of the Dallas Center for Architecture during its construction. This large project has been funded by gifts from 25 of the top local architecture firms and will be sustained by events hosted by the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Finally, as a Texan I need to note that the size of the Dallas Center for Architecture—it will cover over 9,000 square feet—will make it the second largest Center for Architecture in the Nation. It will be quite an asset in the continuing enhancement of Dallas.

COMMENDING BARTOW ELEMENTARY ACADEMY'S DESIGNATION AS A 2008 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Bartow Elementary Academy (BEA) for their designation as a 2008 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Bartow Elementary Academy achieved this distinguished honor as a school performing in the top 10 percent within the State of Florida in the category of schools with less than 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds. One of 320 schools in the nation to receive this honor, the Blue Ribbon reflects the dedication and commitment shared among faculty and students alike at BEA.

Bartow Elementary Academy has long displayed excellence in education. Earning an 'A'